(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Health Policy of U.K. Government

2956. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new Health Policy of the U.K. Government would affect the working Indian nurses in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to protect the job security of the working nurses in U.K.?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) The United Kingdom has not enforced a ban on recruitment of nurses from outside the European Union. However, on July 3, 2006, the Department of Health, UK removed 'general nurses' from the 'Skills Shortage Occupations List' of the UK Home Office. The change in regulation does not affect advanced and senior nurses grades in certain specialities. The change will make no difference to nurses currently working in the UK. The change in the regulation does not stop UK employers from undertaking international recruitment of nurses. They have to demonstrate that they cannot fill a post will a UK or European Economic Area (EEA) applicant first.

Human Rights of PIOS

2957. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of human rights of People of Indian Origin and Pravasi Bharatiyas is under consideration by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the limitations thereof; and

(d) could the limitations not be overcome;

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) As far as international covenants on Human Nights are concerned, India is a State Party to important covenants. These, by and large, do not differentiate between nationals and non-nationals.